

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3465

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS AO

SUBJECT: ENGLISH SCHOOL SITUATION

REF: LUANDA 0450

PRETORIA FOR RSO

1. DURING APRIL 24 I CONTINUED TO TALK WITH OFFICIALS IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM CREATED BY THE PRESENCE NEAR THE ENGLISH SCHOOL OF MPLA AND FNLA TROOPS. MPLA BOUGHT THE HOUSE THEY ARE IN AND REFUSE TO MOVE. FNLA DOES NOT WANT MPLA TO GET AN ADVANTAGE ANYWHERE IN THE CITY AND TOOK OVER THE CATHOLIC RETREAT CENTER TO PREVENT MPLA HEGEMONY IN THAT PART OF THE CITY.

2. I IMPRESSED UPON THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY, THE LIBERATION GROUPS AND THE ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE THAT THE SITUATION WAS INTOLERABLE AND THAT BOTH SHOULD PULL OUT; AT A MINIMUM ONE SHOULD GO. THE ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE CLAIMED THE ARCHDIOCESE DID NOT SELL THE CENTER TO THE FNLA OR IN ANY WAY AUTHORIZE ITS USE.

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3. THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMISSION MET YESTERDAY MORNING AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER RAISED MY EXPRESSION OF CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION. THE MPLA MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION, IMMORTAL MONSTER, AND HIS FNLA COUNTERPART, COMMANDER BARREIRO, AGREED TO GO TO THE SCHOOL TO GET THE MEN IN THEIR QUARTERS AND ISSUE ORDERS NOT TO GO OUTSIDE. I LEARNED LATER THAT THEY ALSO AGREED THEY WOULD GET IN TIGHT WITH ME, BUT THEY NEVER DID. I WENT TO THE SCHOOL AT NOON AND FOUND AN INTEGRATED PATROL OF PORTUGUESE AND LIBERATION TROOPS STANDING BY AND THE MPLA AND FNLA TROOPS IN THEIR QUARTERS.

4. BY THE EVENING OF APRIL 24 THE FNLA BEGAN TO PULL ITS TROOPS OUT OF THE CENTER. GUNFIRE ERUPTED AT ABOUT NINE AT NIGHT, BUT SOON ENDED. PORTUGUESE TROOPS PATROLLED THE AREA BY TRUCK THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT. I CHECKED THE INTERIOR OF THE CENTER ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 25 AND FOUND IT EMPTY. THE MPLA HAD BEEFED UP ITS GARRISON AND WHERE THERE HAD BEEN FIFTEEN MEN AT THE HOUSE NEXT TO THE SCHOOL THERE ARE NOW FIFTY.

5. I AM NOT SANGUINE FNLA WILL LET MATTERS LIE AS THEY ARE. THE FIRST CHANCE THEY GET THEY WILL BUY, RENT OR OCCUPY A BUILDING IN THE GENERAL VICINITY.
KILLORAN

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